

work product would be hard to match, all the while producing very deep works on social policy.

What the Senator has managed to do is to bring the deep thinking from his natural bent as an intellectual to the legislative process. This is, perhaps, why he has chosen to concentrate so often on tough legislative issues, on Social Security, on welfare, yes, and on the black family. And as an African American woman, I think I ought to say right here this afternoon that the Senator was prescient in his work on the black family. As controversial as it was, all that he has said and more has come true. And he was prescient, as well, on the white family, or the American family, since a third of all children in our country are born to female headed households, with all of the disadvantages that implies.

Perhaps because the Moynihan report came just as Civil Rights legislation was kicking in, many African Americans did not want to face the notion that many of the problems of the black family were internal and had to be concentrated on by African Americans themselves. But whatever was the reason, it took a man of the most accomplished intellect, the deepest understanding of social policy to understand so early in the process what problems would attend the growth of the female-headed household.

The Senator appears to have chosen as his only monuments, words. That is why he has written so many. He, of course, has left other monuments; and I want to say a word about those other monuments. But first, let me say that, in choosing words, he is in the tradition of the great intellectuals of the century in choosing to leave on paper what he really thinks so that it can be evaluated now and in the future. He has been true to his first profession as professor all the while he has been a senator.

What has been so important to that work, however, is that it has risen up off the pages. The Senator has continued to be at the cutting edge of social policy, and his deep thinking has obviously guided what he has brought to the legislative table.

I am told he has a hideaway that when the rest of us are running around the halls, he goes to and writes and thinks.

What is truly amazing is that MOYNIHAN is known to have one of the most pragmatic and problem-solving minds in the House and the Senate in his time. He is, basically, a new deal, economics, jobs-first Democrat.

When he came here, he rose to be the chair of the Committee on Finance. He always served on the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Always. He never got off that committee.

Mr. Speaker, this city and surely the Nation will remember Senator MOYNIHAN for a monument he never sought

but is his. He is the architect of the new Pennsylvania Avenue. Almost single-handedly, Senator MOYNIHAN remade Pennsylvania Avenue. On November 21, 1963, he spoke of his plan to take what had become a slum, our major avenue leading between the Capitol and the White House, and redo it.

President Kennedy, and he was then in the administration and not in the Congress, said he would meet with Mr. MOYNIHAN when he got back from Dallas. President Kennedy never got back from Dallas. But Senator MOYNIHAN, in fact, got President Johnson to agree to the Moynihan plan for the rededication of Pennsylvania Avenue as an avenue worthy of the Nation. It has become one of the most beautiful avenues in the world.

What it signifies is the ability of Senator MOYNIHAN to simply stick to an issue until it gets done. Very few legislators who, after all, are forced to jump from issue to issue have that determination and stick-to-it-iveness. He followed Pennsylvania Avenue from the administration, where he served into the Senate and stuck with it and kept with it until it is what we see today.

This redesign, remaking of the major thoroughfare of the Nation's capital, of course, benefitted people of the District of Columbia. But, Mr. Speaker, it benefited far more, the Nation. Imagine what our constituents would think of us if they found Pennsylvania Avenue today the way Senator MOYNIHAN found it. Unwillingly perhaps, Pennsylvania Avenue is one of the monuments to his career.

Mr. Speaker, most courthouses this body names are named simply for the honor of the person. The person never had anything to do with the courthouse, but we honor him by putting his name on the courthouse. Well, that is not true of the Foley Square Courthouse. How could any important building like this be built in New York without Senator MOYNIHAN's hand on the throttle throughout? This is a courthouse that he fought very hard for. It replaces one of the great historic courthouses perhaps next to the Supreme Court, the most historic courthouse that was tumbling down; and Senator MOYNIHAN was determined that there would be a new Foley Square Courthouse.

How appropriate it is, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that the new Foley Square Courthouse would bear the name of a man who sought no monuments, only tried to replace those that had deteriorated, to bear the name of DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN. It does this House a great honor to honor this great Senator. We honor his career, and we are pleased that this courthouse will be one of the monuments to that multifaceted career.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of S. 2370 designating the Fed-

eral Courthouse at 500 Pearl Street in Manhattan after a dear friend and true statesman, Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN. This bill is a fitting tribute to a distinguished scholar, an outstanding Senator, and a great American. The building that will bear his name was built to last more than 200 years and will be a lasting monument to the long and distinguished public service career of Senator MOYNIHAN.

Senator MOYNIHAN has served our country for forty-seven years. He is the only person in our country's history to serve as a member of the Cabinet or sub-Cabinet for four successive administrations. He was Ambassador to India, as well as the President of the United Nations Security Council. And since 1977, he has served the great people of New York in the United States Senate.

Senator MOYNIHAN is also one of our great scholars. He has received more than 60 honorary degrees, has written or edited 18 books, holds a Ph.D. from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and has taught at such distinguished institutions as MIT, Harvard, Syracuse, and Cornell. I know few people who can match his resume and none can surpass his commitment to this Nation.

New York will be losing a strong voice and dear friend in the Senate when Senator MOYNIHAN retires at the end of this year.

I have had the privilege of working with Senator MOYNIHAN on several bills on behalf of our constituents over the years. Even as a freshman Member of the House, Senator MOYNIHAN was generous with his time and became a valued advisor to me. I have enjoyed working with him and will sorely miss his presence when he retires. He is a distinguished Senator and one we will deeply miss in both Chambers.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2370.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2370.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NAMING ROOM IN CAPITOL IN HONOR OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 491) naming a room in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol in honor of former Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 491

Whereas former Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi, from

the time of his election to the House of Representatives in 1967 and his beyond his retirement in 1996 through the present day, has faithfully and continuously facilitated the "House of Representatives Prayer Breakfast" at 8 a.m. every Thursday morning in Room H-130 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol with a dedication that is indelibly etched in the memories of the many Members who have attended that weekly event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the room numbered H-130 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol is named in honor of former Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to be able to bring this resolution to the floor to honor our good friend and former colleague, Sonny Montgomery, and certainly to recognize that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) is the driving force by which this has been brought to the floor today to name room H-130 in the Capitol as the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Room.

As many Members know, Sonny served in this body for 30 years. He was born in Meridian, Mississippi, attended Mississippi State, and served in both World War II and the Korean War. He served in the Mississippi National Guard for 35 years and retired at the rank of major general.

Sonny was a tireless advocate for veterans' programs and chaired that committee for 14 years. He is a former President of the Congressional Prayer Breakfast and was the first Member of Congress to be asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance when it became a permanent part of our daily operations in the House on September 13, 1988.

He made numerous trips abroad on behalf of veterans, led the American Delegation to the 40th and 50th anniversaries of the Normandy Invasion.

□ 1445

He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Award, Mississippi Magnolia Cross Award and numerous other awards. In addition to his being a personal friend of mine, we share a common crisis, an honor which I guess both of us could just as well have done without. He had a very serious operation on his back performed by the chief of neurosurgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital and when I had a broken neck in an automobile accident, I turned to Sonny to see where I should go and what we should do. His recommendation was such a good one because the chief of neurosurgery out at Bethesda put me back together as well. So Sonny and I have both been put back together by the same neurosurgeon.

As I say, I very much appreciated his wonderful and very important advice, but I think it is an honor we both could have done without. He is a dear friend. I am thrilled that we have this before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in strong support of this resolution in honor of Sonny Montgomery. I am very pleased to note that the gentleman is present in the House today. It seems like old times, and it is where so many of us believe he belongs.

Chairman Montgomery, elected to the House in 1966 to represent the Third District of Mississippi, ably served the people of his district for 30 years. He is best known as the most formidable champion of veterans and veterans' rights and benefits. During budget negotiations at the beginning of the 104th Congress, he was able to resist major budget cuts which would have negatively affected veterans and their families. He could always be relied upon to be on the case for those who had been on the case for the Nation in fighting its wars.

Montgomery was known as a caring but stern, an artful watchdog for the men and women of the armed forces, unwilling to compromise on issues that he believed would weaken programs and benefits for veterans. Those veterans remain grateful for his service and so does this House.

In light of that service, we believe it is fitting to name H-130 in honor of Sonny Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to be able to rise in support of H. Res. 491, naming a room in the Capitol in honor of G.V. Sonny Montgomery, a former colleague, a retired general and a great friend to all of us, but particularly to the veterans.

I had the pleasure of not only serving with Sonny but having an office next door to him for many years, allowing me the opportunity to often bring in veterans from my own district to meet with the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and he was always so gracious.

Sonny Montgomery was elected to the House in 1966 from Mississippi, in which post he served for some 30 years, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for 14 years, and served for 25 years on the Committee on National Security. I had the opportunity to work with Sonny on both of those issues affecting our Nation's veterans as well as our Nation's national secu-

rity and can say without any reservation, it was always an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to work with Sonny Montgomery. He was a great friend to all veterans and to members of our armed forces and will always be remembered for his tireless efforts in providing and securing passage of the GI Montgomery bill, something that helped to educate thousands upon thousands of discharged veterans.

Moreover, this measure is even appropriate, since it was Sonny Montgomery who arranged the House prayer breakfast every Thursday morning in H-130, the room which we all join in honoring him by naming it as the G.V. Sonny Montgomery Room. Sonny facilitated the House prayer breakfast in that room ever since he was first elected from Mississippi 30 years ago and until his retirement in 1996.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution on behalf of all veterans, on behalf of all his former friends in the Congress. I once again thank him for all of his efforts on behalf of all of us.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time. I want to compliment the chairman of our committee again on bringing forth this very well deserved and truly earned recognition for a beloved colleague. I want to thank the gentleman in the chair, our Speaker pro tem, for his cosponsorship of the legislation as well.

General Montgomery, and that is how most of us referred to him, is one of those rare people who have served in this body who was not only respected by diligence, by hard work, by command of the subject matter, as a master of the issues over which he held jurisdiction, but at the same time truly beloved of Members on both sides of the aisle, as was evident by the remarks of our distinguished chairman the gentleman from Pennsylvania; a vigorous and formidable champion of veterans rights, of veterans benefits, because he had served our country nobly and understood the sacrifices that the men and women made who went forth to defend freedom and advance the cause of righteousness for our country.

Never was his command of the subject matter and his respect more tested than at the beginning of the 104th Congress when there were major budget cuts across the board, submitted by the administration, coming from the House Committee on the Budget that would have significantly reduced benefits for veterans and their families. Singlehandedly, Chairman, former Chairman, no longer Chairman Montgomery was

the voice of reason, of responsibility, the architect of veterans legislation for so many years. Singlehandedly by that stature, he was able to protect those benefits, preserve veterans from unjustified cuts, to remind us all of why we have a veterans program, and that we have and will continue to have an obligation to serve the veteran, his widow and orphan.

Seven-term chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, author of the veterans education bill that now bears his name, a watchdog for veterans, a compassionate voice but as the gentleman from Pennsylvania said, a prayerful voice. And as the gentleman from New York also mentioned, founder of the House prayer breakfast, to bring Members together for at least one day a week on one subject on which all could agree, and that is respect for our maker and the author of life.

We do not name rooms in this august building lightly or frequently. When we do, it must be with great consideration of the role, the contribution that the person we are so honoring has offered to our Congress and to our country. The name must be as distinguished and as hallowed as this building. I think those terms of respect reflect properly the service and the career of G.V. Sonny Montgomery, the gentleman from Mississippi, for whom we designate H-130 in the U.S. Capitol to be named in his honor.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding me this time. I rise in enthusiastic, even joyful support of this legislation, because it will designate H-130 in the United States Capitol as the G.V. Sonny Montgomery Room.

For 30 years, Sonny Montgomery served my State of Mississippi and the Nation with honor and distinction. His legislative accomplishments on behalf of our veterans and in the area of national defense serve as a testament to his effectiveness as a Member of the House of Representatives. Just last week, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs he once chaired held hearings to raise benefits on the Montgomery GI Bill, an education measure which is credited with saving the all-volunteer force. He is still known as "Mr. Veteran" on Capitol Hill, and Sonny is beloved in our home State of Mississippi for his tireless work on behalf of our men and women in uniform.

But we are not here to talk today simply about legislative accomplishments. We honor Sonny Montgomery today for another role which he takes just as seriously today as he did during his three decades in this Chamber, and I refer to his leadership in the House prayer breakfast group.

Each Thursday when the House is in session, Members of Congress meet in H-130 of the Capitol at 8 a.m. to pray, to sing hymns, enjoy food and fellowship and to share their faith. Sonny is the unofficial leader of this weekly gathering. He served as President of this informal group, and for so many years thereafter, he was responsible for reporting on Members, their families, staff and others who were ill or otherwise in need of prayer. He is also known, Mr. Speaker, as a zealous guardian of this one hour per week. Over the years, committee chairmen, House leaders on both sides of the aisle and even Presidents of the United States have heard from Sonny when they would schedule important meetings that conflicted with the House prayer breakfast. He would politely but firmly suggest that perhaps another meeting time would be more appropriate.

Sonny has always said that Thursday was the best day of the week for him, because it starts with the House prayer breakfast, and I agree. He was one of the first people to greet me when I joined that group in 1995, and to this day he is still one of the first people to greet me on Thursday mornings when I walk into H-130 for our prayer breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to our former colleague and friend. I urge unanimous support for this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), Sonny Montgomery's Congressman.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in proud support of H.Res. 491. It is a difficult challenge to follow someone like Sonny Montgomery in Congress. But I have the great privilege of today representing Congressman G.V. Sonny Montgomery. And I have the opportunity to see his mark, his legacy throughout my district. If my colleagues go through or travel through the Third District of Mississippi, they will see the G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Hospital. If they go to the small town of Forest, Mississippi, they will see the G.V. Sonny Montgomery International Airport, or the G.V. Sonny Montgomery Industrial Park, or the National Guard complexes across the district. His name and his imprint is all over the Third District of Mississippi.

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) mentioned his role as Mr. Veteran and National Guard and what he has done for the men and women in our Armed Services. His legacy is rich and it is full, and it is well-deserved. But his legacy and his story would not be complete if we did not also talk about

his role, his leadership, his contribution in the congressional prayer breakfast. Every Thursday morning, it is time for Members of Congress, Republican and Democrat, from all over the country, all regions, to come together, put our differences aside, and try to unite as we call upon our Creator and as we pray for our President, our Nation, and for the men and women who serve in this body and their families.

□ 1500

His responsibility each Thursday is to give the report on the sick and the wounded.

When I was first taking office, I was going to my swearing-in ceremony, and Congressman Montgomery blessed me with his presence and his advice and counsel at that event where my family, my friends and people important to Mississippi came. He stood and he said, "You know, I have got some bad news for you, Chip, today. I know it is a great day for you, but I have also got some bad news. After serving this district and my country for 30 years, there is not a building left on which you can put your name."

Never did I know that we would start naming rooms in this building for him as well. I give him a hard time, that the only chance I have to name anything after me is my children. I have five boys, and that is the only hope, the only chance, that I have, because his name is throughout Mississippi and his legacy and his presence is continuously there.

But I have great privilege today of being part of this event as a cosponsor of this resolution, to have a fitting tribute for his role in keeping this House together throughout his 30 years of service. Many times in great conflict and controversy it was the voice of "Sonny" Montgomery and the Prayer Breakfast that brought everyone together. It was his gentle but strong voice that could do so.

If the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) were here, he would tell the story of how, as a freshman coming to Congress, and this is a Member from Pennsylvania who serves on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs today, how he was able to land a slot on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, but he wanted a particular subcommittee, and he went to then Chairman "Sonny" Montgomery and asked for a position on a subcommittee, a position that "Sonny" currently held on that subcommittee, and the only way that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) would get a slot was if someone would give their position away.

It was "Sonny" Montgomery who sacrificed his own seat on that subcommittee so that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) could serve, and he asked one thing, one thing in return: Please come to the Prayer Breakfast every Thursday morning,

and as anyone knows, every new Member and every old Member here has heard from "Sonny" Montgomery inviting them, inviting them again and again to come join us Thursday morning at the Prayer Breakfast.

His legacy is rich, it is one that is embodied in the symbols of this chamber. If you look directly over the flag it says "In God We Trust." Directly in front of me in the chamber the historical figures, the central is Moses, and above me the eagle, the symbol of our Nation, and under it, *E Pluribus Unum*, in many there is one. When we are united, when we have our faith and we are committed to be one, then our Nation can soar as the eagle and it can do great things for our people.

"Sonny" Montgomery's legacy is one of doing things that not only have significance today, but have value for eternity. I am proud to say that I follow his example, and that he is the Member that I can look to, and he is the Member who well deserves this honor that we are giving him today.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I add but a word: In my years in Congress here, I have had the opportunity to serve with many outstanding Representatives. One of the finest during my era and during all time is that of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, not only an outstanding Member of Congress who represented his district well, kept our country strong as a senior member of the Committee on Armed Services, as chairman and then later ranking member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Further than that, he is a wonderful friend, not just to me but to so many. So this is a very, very fitting and proper tribute to a wonderful man.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE), the author of this resolution.

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, very few of our constituents, very few in the world, see anything of the Congress other than its public side, exemplified in the letters we write, the speeches we make, the appearances that seem to define us. That, of course, is a part, a very important part, of what and who we are. But it is not the whole picture, and it is the other part of that picture that determines in large measure whether we are

successful in the public part of our lives.

The private lives of Members, their relationships with colleagues, with family, with their Creator, form, more than anything else, the real "who" that we are, the real persons that succeed or fail, day in and day out, with the duties we are assigned or which we assume on our own in this place we know as the House of Representatives.

In days of increasing intervention into privacy, both for the public at large, and especially for those in public life, something may perhaps be gained, but much is lost as well. For those in public office, one of the results of the diminution of privacy has been a tendency to withdraw further and further from private relationships, a lessening of personal interactions with others, an unwillingness to admit, let alone share, feelings and concerns that are inevitably a part of the human condition.

Without that part of our lives, we are, in fact, less human, and as such, less capable of doing the job that those who sent us here expect, to reflect in every way the condition of those we represent, and through that representation, to interact with others in the common pursuit of solutions to human problems.

One of the unfortunate results of this trend has been a reduction in the civility of representative government. As colleagues know each other less well, it becomes increasingly easier to reduce intellectual differences to personal attacks, to lose sight of the fact that behind each idea or policy proposal is a human being entitled to respect, simply because of his or her humanity.

We may differ in our ideology, but we must never allow that to intrude on our commonality, as children of God, each created in His own image.

Former Congressman "Sonny" Montgomery is a man who never lost that understanding and who lives it as an example for all of us every day. The many Members who share in the weekly Prayer Breakfast are the beneficiaries of this example, perhaps more than most. His gentle touch, his genuine inquiries about our families, our health, our spiritual life, remind us of the human side of this place, so often lost in the hustle of daily scheduling and the demands of the office and the institution.

Every Thursday morning at 8:00, for more than 30 years as a Member and even now after his retirement, "Sonny" provides us a reminder of the best of the traditions of this place, where Members can share the things in private that they never dare to mention in public; where our humanness is refreshed and reinforced; and where we come to understand that each of us, different as we are, remain joint heirs with the redeemer and common travelers on a road toward the realization of principles to which we are all committed.

Thursday mornings with "Sonny" and our other colleagues provide an oasis for the spirit, an understanding that each of us is a very small part on a continuum of the history of a great Nation, an awareness of how fortunate we are to be here and to share this experience with our colleagues, also entrusted by their constituents with the future of this remarkable institution and the Nation it seeks to serve.

The human touch that "Sonny" brings helps keep in balance the many and sometimes competing demands placed on each of us. His quiet commitment to that understanding and to each of us as Members simply as people has made him truly a Member's Member. In honoring him, we honor a tradition of the House that he has so faithfully lived and which has made this place and each of us better.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), the current president of the Congressional Prayer Breakfast.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a bittersweet day as our vice president of our current Prayer Breakfast experiences the loss of his son, and we, all this week, will mourn and grieve and pray and just yearn for that family and the loss that they have experienced.

But it is a great day that we can recognize "Sonny" Montgomery, and I know "Sonny" would also want us all to pause and reflect and share with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and his family as they have lost B.J., their 17-year-old son over this weekend.

But I knew of General "Sonny" Montgomery long before I got here, and I am now in my sixth year, and I was blessed recently with the House Members asking me to serve as their president. But I knew of "Sonny" and the great tradition that he brought from Mississippi because I went to the same prep school, which was a military school, the great McCallie School, in Chattanooga, where political leaders like Governor Carroll Campbell and Senator Bill Brock and Senator Howard Baker and General "Sonny" Montgomery went to school, and business people, the likes of Ted Turner, a great tradition. "Sonny" went there. He was raised up right.

But he comes every week. Thursday morning, folks, for an hour is a sacrosanct set aside time. He would want me to recognize that that is a special hour for Members to come in a non-denominational, interfaith way, and just share our faith in God and understand the goodness in each of us, and peel back our heart and share with each other in a human way so that in the middle of what people see as a war here sometimes on Capitol Hill, there is

peace and tranquility and we all share in our humanness together.

We sing and we pray and we talk and we fellowship, and it is a great hour, and every week "Sonny" is there, year in, year out, decade in, decade out, he is the rock, he is the anchor. And H-130 where we meet in that sacrosanct fellowship every week should be named after him and in his honor.

So I thank the gentleman from Indiana for this initiative. I thank the gentlemen from Mississippi that have honored "Sonny" today, and all the Members, because in a bipartisan way, there is no more love in this institution than the love for "Sonny" Montgomery, and I thank the gentleman for allowing me to honor "Sonny" Montgomery today.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would suggest that, particularly for those of us who had the privilege of serving in the United States Army, there is one badge of courage which perhaps shines above all others, and that is the combat infantryman's badge, and with all the honors, with all the medals that General "Sonny" Montgomery has, he wears but one in his lapel, and that is the combat infantryman's badge. Of course, what that badge means is that someone privileged to wear it has literally put his life on the line for his country.

So I know we all join together today to salute this great American, General "Sonny" Montgomery.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 491—Naming a Room in the House of Representatives Wing of the Capitol in Honor of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery. This is a fitting honor for a man who served his constituents and our Nation as a Member of Congress from Mississippi from 1967 until the time he retired in 1996.

When I first came to Congress in 1993, Representative Montgomery served as a mentor and a friend. He was one of my first friends when I came to Congress. There was never a time that I went to him with a problem that he did not listen and provide help and good advice. Today, he continues to serve the House faithfully by facilitating the weekly "House of Representatives Prayer Breakfast" at 8 a.m. every Thursday morning in room H-130 in the Capitol.

Representative Montgomery is one of those people who transcended partisan politics and judged people on who they are as opposed to their party affiliation. He enjoyed and continues to enjoy a wide circle of friends here on Capitol Hill.

As Chairman of the Veteran's Affairs Committee for 14 years, the impact the Representative Montgomery's service to the Veterans of this country has been enormous. Among veterans, he is widely known and respected. Representative Montgomery served his country in World War II and later in the Mississippi National Guard. The House suffered a major loss when he retired in 1996. The veterans'

programs that he put together still help people across this country and serve as the foundation and model for successful and meaningful veterans' programs.

Representative Montgomery, thank you for your service. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 491.

The question was taken.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JOHN J. BUCHANAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1377) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 9308 South Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60617, is designated as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be considered to be a reference to the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate amendments to H.R. 1377.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) introduced H.R. 1377 on April 13, 1999. The bill des-

ignated the facility of the U.S. Postal Service at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building."

□ 1515

Pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform, all Members of the Illinois Delegation supported the legislation.

On May 24, 1999, the House considered the measure under suspension of the rules and agreed to pass the bill by a voice vote.

On November 3, 1999, the Senate committee with jurisdiction ordered the bill to be reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following day reported the bill to the Senate with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title.

On November 19, 1999, the Senate passed H.R. 1377 with an amendment and an amendment to the title by unanimous consent. The amendment changed the address from 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, to 9308 South Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

We concur in the Senate amendment in the nature of a substitute and to the title of H.R. 1377.

John Buchanan, after whom the postal facility will be named, served our Nation as a member of the U.S. Navy. He also served his community as an alderman of Chicago's 10th Ward from 1963 to 1971 and again from 1991 to April 1999 when he retired.

He still continues to volunteer for his community and his community wants to honor him by designating a postal facility be named after him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for the time that he has given me in this legislation before us today.

It is not often that we have the opportunity to salute outstanding public servants from the City of Chicago. I am proud today to rise to honor the work and dedication of Alderman John J. Buchanan and urge this body to vote in favor of designating the post office at 9308 South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the John J. Buchanan Post Office Building.

I have enjoyed working with John Buchanan over the last 6 years that I have had the privilege of representing residents of the 10th Ward of the City of Chicago. I consider him a friend, an advisor, someone who I have grown to respect so much for the contribution he has made to his community and for all of us.

This past year, Alderman Buchanan retired after serving as alderman for the 10th Ward in the City of Chicago